Frustration prevailing amongst the Indian Airlines Pilots

927. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 200 Indian Airlines Pilots have applied for jobs in Gulf countries due to the general frustration prevailing amongst the pilots;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to remove the frustration amongst the pilots?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) and (b) Gulf Air had floated a global advertisement for Boeing-737 pilots, offering lucrative tax-free salaries. However, no information is available about the number of pilots of Indian Airlines who have applied for jobs in the Gulf countries.

(c) A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been arrived at between the management of Indian Airlines and the Indian Commercial Pilots' Association (ICPA) for the period 1.10.1985 to 31.8.1990 and Government approval has also been conveyed. MOU provides for reasonable improvement in the salary and allowances of pilots.

Discussion with Government of Canada regarding help to terrorists by Canadian nationals

928. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he or Minister of State for External Affairs made visits to Canada during the year 1988;

(b) whether during these visits it was brought to the notice of that Government that there was definite proof in possession of Government of India to show that some Canadian nationals were helping terrorists in Punjab; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Canadian Government and final outcome of the talks held in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Yes.

(b) From time to time Government has drawn the attention of the Government of Canada to the strong evidence of assistance provided by some Canadian nationals for terrorist activities in Punjab. This matter was discussed during the visit of the Minister of State for External Affairs to Canada in 1988.

(c) The Canadian Government confirmed that it would continue to cooperate with the Government of India in combating the International dimensions of terrorist activities directed against India.

Record of furniture at the residences of Indian Missions Abroad

929. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that no record of handing-over/taking-over of stocks, machinery and furnitures at the residences of the Indian Missions abroad has been kept till date by any machinery;

(b) whether Government have any machinery to inspect the stock, furniture etc. at the residences of Indian Missions abroad and whether a periodical inspection is made of such articles, if so, the details about composion of said machinery;

(c) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the fact that several articles were found missing

from the Indian Ambassador's residence, if so, the names of Ambassadors and details of missing articles; and

(d) what steps have been taken by Government to recover the missing articles or the cost of the articles from the Ambassador involved?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) No Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. A stock register of all such articles is maintained alongwith the descriptions, date of purchase, value, etc. This register is updated regularly and there is standing instruction that physical verification of all the stocks may be carried out by the competent officials of the Missions every year. In addition, the Foreign Service Inspectors and the Audit Party also carry out inspection as and when they visit the Missions.

(c) Yes, Sir. Certain items found short or missing in the Embassy in Washington found mention in the Report of the Comptroller & Auditor General in 1988. Since the shortages had occured over a period of nearly four decades, no particular Ambassador could be held responsible for this.

(d) Recoveries are not considered necessary as appropriate remedial action has been taken to the satisfaction of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India who has stated that there is no outstanding impropriety on the part of the Embassy or the Ministry.

Introduction of a morning flight between Patna and Delhi

930. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of flights at present which operate between Patna and Delhi with their timings;

(b) whether Government are aware that more often these flights get delayed;

(c) whether Government are also aware that in the absence of a flight from Patna to Delhi in the morning, a lot of inconvenience is caused to the travelling public; and

(d) if so, whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) A statement indicating the number of flights with their timings whch are operating at present between Delhi and Patna is attached. [*See* Appendix CLI, Annexure No. 74].

(b) During the period April, 1989 to June, 1989, out of 484 flights operated by Indian Airlines between Patna and Delhi, 253 flights were delayed ex-Patna/ex-Delhi. However, only 23 flights were delayed due to reasons within the control of the Corporation and the remaining flights were delayed due to adverse weather, miscellaneous and consequential reasons.

(c) and (d) It has been the experience of IA that flights to/from Patna in the morning hours are not feasible during the winter season due to inclement weather conditions/poor visibility, etc. In order to maintain uniform timings throughout the year and to minimise disruption of flights during winter season, flights to/from Patna have been scheduled in the late morning/afternoon hours onwards and there is no proposal to change timings.

Dismissal of workers by D.T.C. during strike

931. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state: